

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Universal Services
Date:	10 July 2023
Title:	Local Transport Fund
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services approves the continued use of the methodology set out in the supporting report for allocating the Local Transport Fund (LTF).
- 1.2 That the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services gives authority to spend and enter into contractual arrangements (in consultation with the Head of Legal Services) with qualifying local bus operators in Hampshire in accordance with the approved methodology up to the value of grant awarded to the County Council by the Department for Transport (DfT) to be funded from the LTF.
- 1.3 That, if the LTF is not wholly utilised in offsetting the shortfall in revenue experienced by the operators of tendered local bus services, the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services delegates authority to the Director of Universal Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services, to spend and enter into grant agreements with transport providers for any claim that meets the DfT criteria outlined in Appendix One of the supporting report.
- 1.4 That authority is delegated to the Director of Universal Services, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services, to award and administer any subsequent tranches of LTF (or successor funding streams that have the same terms, conditions and objectives) that may be awarded to Hampshire County Council, up to the value of such awards and in accordance with the terms of the award.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 The proposal to make ongoing payments would enable the County Council to continue to provide key transport services to members of the public.
- 2.2 This decision would contribute to Hampshire's economic growth as these services enable passengers to access their place of employment in addition to health, retail, social and leisure facilities.

- 2.3 This decision would contribute towards Hampshire's strategic aim of enabling its residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives.
- 2.4 This decision is aligned with both Hampshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and Hampshire's emerging Local Transport Plan 4.
- 2.5 If operators are not reimbursed for the shortfall in revenue they are receiving as a direct result of the impact of the pandemic, service levels will be reduced to bring the costs of providing the services in line with the income received.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 To return the LTF funding in full to the Department for Transport. Depending on the area, this would result in either no service or a service reduction and would be harmful both to local bus services and the economy in Hampshire.
- 3.2 To change the mechanism for distributing the LTF. This has been rejected because Hampshire County Council has applied a consistent mechanism to make payments of grants issued by Government since the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic to support the bus industry. This mechanism was audited by Southern Internal Audit Partnership in 2020 and has been working effectively since.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: -----	Date: 10 July 2023
Executive Lead Member for Universal Services Councillor Nick Adams-King	